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RAMSBOTTOM
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1954

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RAMSBOTTOM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL 1954

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL :

COUNCILLOR H. SHEPHERD, J.P. (until May, 1954)

*COUNCILLOR G. HOLT, J.P. (from May, 1954)

CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE :

COUNCILLOR M. CRAWSHAW (until April, 1954.)

COUNCILLOR G. HOLT, J.P. (from May, 1954)

COUNCILLORS:

F. M. ASHWORTH
(From May, 1954)

H. BRADLEY

W. S. CLARK

*H. A. FISH
(Until Nov. 1954)

*T. R. HAWORTH

*J. HOGAN
(Deceased 6. 2. 54.)

W. HOLDEN, J.P.

*A. MOONEY

J. W. PICKUP

*J. H. PARKINSON
(From May, 1954)

G. E. POLLARD

H. C. RANDELL

F. A. ROTHWELL
(Until May, 1954)

B. J. SMITH

*F. TIPPING
(From May, 1954)

*Members of the Health Committee

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C. H. T. WADE, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

HARRY KELLETT, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Foods, R.S.I.

Cert. Smoke Inspector, R.S.I. ; Sanitary Science Cert., R.S.I.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

DAVID J. EMM, M.S.I.A.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Foods, R.S.I.

(Until 7th June, 1954)

WILLIAM J. WOLSTENHOLME, M.S.I.A.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Foods, R.S.I.

(From 12th July, 1954)

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES.
MARKET PLACE,
RAMSBOTTOM.

June, 1955.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Ramsbottom Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1954 on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The mid-year population was estimated to be 14,160, a decrease of 50 compared with the previous year's estimate. The adjusted birth rate was 13.4 and the adjusted death rate 12.4 per thousand of the population. Both these figures are lower than the national rates which were 15.2 and 11.3 respectively.

The infant mortality rate was 23 per thousand live births and the five year average 25.0, both figures are lower than the national average of 25.5 per thousand live births. The infant deaths all occurred in the first four weeks of life. There were no maternal deaths.

There has been no outstanding cause of illness or infection and the total number of infectious diseases notified is only 63, a record low figure.

Sampling of milk for evidence of tuberculosis and bacteriological content has again been carried out on a large scale. Two samples of raw milk out of 126 were found to contain tuberculosis infection and 26 samples of raw milk out of a total of 145 failed to reach a satisfactory bacteriological standard.

The sale of ordinary raw milk which is liable to contain tubercle bacilli from diseased cows should be prohibited. Action depends amongst other things on the availability of pasteurizing facilities.

The relicensing of private slaughter houses gave the Council much cause for concern and they finally agreed to issue licences for four private slaughter houses and for one slaughter house attached to a bacon factory. A great deal of extra work has resulted, details of which are given in a later section of this report. Much more meat is produced in Ramsbottom than is required by the district and it has been necessary

to have a Sanitary Inspector on duty every Sunday. The incidence of tuberculosis disease in slaughtered cattle was found to be no less than 42 per cent and 17,500 pounds of meat were condemned on account of tuberculosis.

There was on notification of food poisoning which was not confirmed on investigation (or for which no cause was found).

Further progress has been made in dealing with unsatisfactory housing conditions. First indications of the effect of the new housing repairs and rents acts are that the new provisions are not being widely used.

A Ministry of Health enquiry was held in respect of two areas recommended for clearance and orders were eventually confirmed in five areas affecting 24 houses.

The public mains water supply has continued to be satisfactory and the addition of a large new filter station at Loveclough, Rawtenstall, is a welcome improvement to the service.

My grateful thanks are due to members of the Council and officers for their help and co-operation in maintaining an efficient health service throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A

VITAL STATISTICS
FOR THE YEAR
1954

Statistics of the Area, 1954

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	9,559
Population (census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	14,587
Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1954	...	...	...	...	...	14,160
Number of inhabited houses—						
(a) Census, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	5,005
(b) End of 1954	...	...	...	...	...	5,232
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	...	£85,139
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£336

Vital Statistics

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	163	92	71	Birth rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid-1954 = Crude 12.3 Adjusted 13.4
	Illegitimate	11	5	6	
	Total	174	97	77	
Still Births	Legitimate	5	3	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 28
	Illegitimate	—	—	—	
	Total	5	3	2	
Deaths		198	91	107	Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid 1954 = Crude 14.0 Adjusted 12.4
England and Wales	Birth rate ...	...	15.2		
	Death rate...	...	11.3		

Age Period of Deaths

				Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	...	...	...	2	2	4
Between 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	1	—	1
Between 5 and 15 years	...	...	...	—	1	1
Between 15 and 25 years	...	...	...	1	—	1
Between 25 and 45 years	...	...	...	4	3	7
Between 45 and 65 years	...	...	...	29	21	50
65 years and over	...	...	...	54	80	134
				91	107	198

Maternal Mortality

	Deaths	Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil
Total Maternal Mortality	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	23
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	23
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	Nil

Deaths from certain Specified Diseases

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	...	24
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	...	...	...	...	Nil

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

Deaths of infants under one year of age : The infant mortality rate of 23 per 1,000 was lower than the national average but the five year average of 25.0 which gives more accurate figure is better than national average.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis : There was one death from Respiratory Tuberculosis and none from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis. New cases were two and three respectively, these figures are satisfactory when compared with those of England and Wales.

Birth rate : The corrected birth rate was 13.4 that is corrected to a standard population for purpose of comparison with the national rate which was 15.2.

Death rate : The rate of 12.4 per 1,000 compares with 11.3 for England and Wales.

Still Birth rate : The number of registered stillbirths was 5 as compared with none last year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1954	1953
ALL CAUSES	198	160
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2
Tuberculosis, other	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	1	1
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	5	0
Malignant neoplasm, Uterus (F), Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M)	1	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	31	30
Coronary disease, angina	33	28
Hypertension with heart disease	10	7
Other heart diseases	36	26
Other circulatory disease	13	4
Influenza	2	1
Pneumonia	3	4
Bronchitis	16	11
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	0	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
Congenital malformations	2	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	10
Suicide	2	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	2
All other accidents	4	2
Homicide and operations of war	0	0

TABLE I
RAMSBOTTOM U.D.C. STATISTICS, 1954 TO 1934

Year	Population	Death Rate per 1,000	Birth Rate per 1,000	INFANTILE MORTALITY			Still Births per 1,000 live and still Births	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still Births	Tuberculosis all Forms Death Rate
				All Infants per 1,000	Leg. Infants per 1,000 Leg. Births	Illeg. Infants per 1,000 Illeg. Births			
1954	14,160	14.0	12.3	23	23	Nil	28	Nil	0.07
1953	14,210	11.3	13.8	31	31	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.14
1952	14,190	16.4	14.2	25	25	Nil	38	4.78	.07
1951	14,380	17.2	14.2	25	25	Nil	24	Nil	.20
1950	14,440	15.9	14.3	24	25	Nil	24	Nil	.14
1949	14,530	13.7	14.5	19	20	Nil	41	Nil	.41
1948	14,390	15.2	16.7	12	12	Nil	20	Nil	.28
1947	14,070	17.6	21.0	43	41	111	13	Nil	.28
1946	13,900	15.1	17.8	52	46	181	31	3.9	.5
1945	13,340	14.7	14.6	30.6	27	71	29	4.95	.45
1944	13,450	13.31	15.98	60.5	60	66.66	35.87	Nil	.67
1943	13,730	14.13	15.8	64.5	60.3	111.1	18.4	4.52	.29
1942	14,240	15.17	13.48	62	65	Nil	35	Nil	.21
1941	14,890	12.5	11.5	55	51	167	65	10.9	.47
1940	14,850	14.2	10.7	56	57	Nil	42	Nil	.34
1939	14,970	11.88	11.42	63	64	Nil	45	5.59	.27
1938	14,940	11.6	11.0	30	18	500	62	11.36	.33
1937	15,030	12.3	11.8	56	58	Nil	48	5.34	.47
1936	15,190	13.5	12.1	81	78	142	60	5.07	.66
1935	15,220	12.6	11.3	46	46	Nil	28	5.6	.79
1934	15,220	11.4	12.2	59	54	250	31	5.20	.92

TABLE III
RAMSOTTOM U.D.C. STATISTICS
MEAN RATES FOR 1937—1954

Mean of 5 Years	PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION			Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births
	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis	
1937—1941	11.2	12.4	0.30	52
1938—1942	11.5	13.0	0.27	53
1939—1943	12.5	13.5	0.27	60
1940—1944	13.4	13.8	0.27	59
1941—1945	14.2	13.9	0.29	54
1942—1946	15.5	14.4	0.33	53
1943—1947	17.0	14.9	0.33	49
1944—1948	17.3	15.3	0.30	40
1945—1949	17.0	15.3	0.33	33
1946—1950	16.9	15.5	0.33	32
1947—1951	16.1	15.9	0.18	24
1948—1952	14.7	15.6	0.15	21
1949—1953	14.2	14.9	0.15	24
19 0—1954	14.2	14.9	0.09	25

Estimated home population mid-1954 — 44,274,000

	<i>England and Wales</i>		<i>Ramsbottom</i>
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Rate per 1000 home population</i>	<i>Rate per 1000 home population</i>
BIRTHS			
Live births	673,212	15.2	13.4
Stillbirths	16,130	{ 0.36 23.4(a)	0.35 28.00
DEATHS			
All causes	501,878	11.30	12.40
Tuberculosis (all forms)	7,899	0.18	0.07
Respiratory	7,069	0.16	0.07
Non-respiratory	830	0.02	0.00
Cancer (all forms)	90,099	2.04	1.69
Lung and bronchus	16,330	0.37	0.28
Other cancer	73,769	1.67	1.41
Maternal Mortality (total)	478	0.69	0.00
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	402	0.58	0.00
Due to abortion	76	0.11	0.00
Infant mortality	17,098	25.5(b)	23.00
Neo-natal mortality	11,944	17.7(b)	23.00
NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)			
Typhoid fever	116	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	547	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection	1,246	0.03	0.07
Scarlet fever	42,393	0.96	0.49
Whooping cough	105,901	2.39	1.27
Diphtheria	176	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	5,372	0.12	0.14
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	146,970	3.32	1.20
Pneumonia	26,542	0.60	0.63
Acute poliomyelitis—			
Paralytic	1,314	0.03	0.00
Non-paralytic	641	0.01	0.00
Acute encephalitis—			
Infective	116	0.00	0.00
Post-infectious	101	0.00	0.00
Dysentery	31,834	0.72	0.14
Food poisoning	8,969	0.20	0.07
Puerperal pyrexia	12,227	0.28	0.00
Tuberculosis—			
Respiratory	38,432	0.87	0.14
Meninges and C.N.S.	695	0.02	0.00
Other	4,940	0.11	0.21

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

TABLE IV

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. registered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Rate per 1,000 live births	
									No. of deaths registered	No. of deaths registered		
RAMSBOTTOM U.D.												
Year 1954	174	13.4	198	12.4	5	28	Nil	Nil	4	23	4	23
Year 1953	196	*13.8	160	*11.3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6	31	4	20
Year 1952	201	*14.2	233	*16.4	8	38	1.0	4.78	5	25	2	10
Year 1951	204	*14.2	248	*17.2	5	24	Nil	Nil	5	25	2	10
Year 1950	207	14.3	230	15.9	5	24	Nil	Nil	5	24	4	19
Year 1949	210	14.5	199	13.7	9	41	Nil	Nil	4	19	—	—
Average 5 years— 1949—1953	—	14.06	—	14.48	—	25.8	—	.956	—	24.5	—	13.6

* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.09) = 14.6 per 1,000

death-rate (" " 0.89) = 11.03 " "

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION
OF
HEALTH SERVICES

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Under the National Health Service Act the County Council is responsible for the local health services.

The examination of pathological specimens and milk and water samples is undertaken without charge by the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The following matters are the responsibility of the Urban Council :—The control of infectious disease ; provision of suitable water supplies ; control of cleansing and disposal of refuse ; inspection of all food and food preparing premises ; sampling of foodstuffs (milk, ice-cream, etc.) for bacteriological examination ; sanitary accommodation to houses, factories, shops and other premises ; inspection of houses with regard to fitness for human habitation ; nuisances and defects ; rodent control ; offensive trades ; smoke abatement ; and many other matters concerned with environmental health.

Hospital facilities are now under the Regional Board and Management Committees, and patients are admitted without regard to local boundaries.

Ambulance, District Nursing, Midwifery and Maternity and Child Welfare Services are provided by the County Council and administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme.

Section C

PREVALANCE OF AND
CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1945—1954

DISEASE	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945
Scarlet Fever ...	7	26	6	29	28	23	25	8	20	72
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	2	3	12
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	17	172	130	175	194	11	263	172	97	104
Whooping Cough ...	18	17	17	24	41	22	18	39	12	66
Pneumonia ...	9	3	—	10	16	13	27	12	22	22
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	3	1	3	1	8	3	5	2	5
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	2	—	5	3	5	9	3	5	10	12
Non-respiratory Tuberculosis...	3	—	2	1	5	4	3	1	5	3
Dysentery ...	2	1	—	7	1	—	—	—	—	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Paratyphoid "B" ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	1	1	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	63	223	165	254	295	93	360	247	172	299

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1954

19

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED													Total Deaths	Cases re-moved to Hospital	Deaths in Hospi-tal
	Total Cases all ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS								65 and over	Age Un-known					
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—							
Scarlet Fever ...	7	—	3	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Measles ...	17	—	12	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	18	2	9	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	9	—	1	—	1	—	2	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection.	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	58	2	26	10	9	1	3	2	4	1	—	—	—	6	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—MONTHLY INCIDENCE, 1954

DISEASE	Total	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	7	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Measles ...	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	8	5
Whooping Cough ...	18	-	3	3	1	-	-	1	-	3	-	7	-
Pneumonia ...	9	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	1	2
Erysipelas ...	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	3	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Acute Polio-myelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Meningitis...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals ...	63	1	6	7	2	1	3	6	1	7	5	71	7

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1954

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Years	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
55 to 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over... ..	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	2	0	2	1	1	-	-	-
	2		3		1		-	

PARTICULARS OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER DURING 1954

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Pulmonary & Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Number of Cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the commencement of the year	15	15	30	14	6	20	29	21	50
Number of Cases added to the Register during the year	2	—	2	2	1	3	4	1	5
Number of Cases of tuberculosis removed from the Register during the year on account of :									
(a) having died	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
(b) having left the district	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
(c) having recovered	—	—	—	4	—	4	4	—	4
(d) diagnosis of tuberculosis not being confirmed	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Number of Cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year	16	14	30	11	7	18	27	21	48

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 143 - 170.

National Health Service Act, 1946, Part III.

(i) Infectious Diseases.

Cases of infectious diseases are now admitted free of charge to the most suitable infectious disease hospital without regard to local boundaries.

(ii) Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory Monsall Hospital, Manchester, for the bacteriological examination of food, milk, water, ice-cream, faeces and urine, etc.

The following specimens were submitted for examination :—

Milk for Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	127
Milk for Methylene Blue	....	....	....	....	157
Milk for Turbidity Test	....	....	....	....	8
Milk for Phosphatase Test	....	....	....	....	12
Water for Bacteria	....	....	....	....	74
Ice-cream for Methylene Blue	....	....	....	....	19

(iii) Whooping Cough.

18 cases were notified, compared with 17 cases in the previous year.

(iv) Scabies.

Under modern conditions there is little reason why there should be any cases of scabies, and most of the cases occur amongst school-children. No cases were treated at the School Clinic during the year.

(v) Tuberculosis.

There were 2 new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis and 3 of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis, and there was one deaths from respiratory tuberculosis. High priority is given for re-housing whenever an infectious case of Tuberculosis is reported.

(vi) Smallpox.

No cases occurred during the year.

(vii) Disinfection.

Present-day knowledge has reduced the necessity for disinfection as frequently as in the past, and during the year under review, 2 houses were disinfected.

(viii) National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

This section gives powers to the Medical Officer of Health to remove persons who are in need of care and attention and who are living under insanitary conditions. No cases occurred during the year.

Section D

SANITARY
CIRCUMSTANCES

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
MARKET PLACE,
RAMSBOTTOM.

1st June, 1955.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Ramsbottom Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present, in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health, my Annual Report of the sanitary circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1954.

In June the department lost Mr. D. J. Emm, Additional Sanitary Inspector, who took up a similar appointment with the Trowbridge U.D.C. after six and a half years' service with this authority.

In July we were pleased to welcome Mr. W. J. Wolstenholme of the Public Health Department, Borough of Accrington, as Additional Sanitary Inspector.

The most important events during the year were the decontrol of meat, and a start to clear unfit houses. The former event has placed a considerable burden on the inspectorial staff, particularly in duty after normal working hours, involving regular duty every Sunday. The inspection of meat prior to human consumption, forms one of the most vital public health duties of local authorities.

The resumption of the clearance of unfit houses started during the year. A number of properties scheduled to be dealt with since 1933 were the subject of a public inquiry. A special survey of one large area was put before the Council, and a further survey of all unfit houses in the district was commenced, in preparation for the report required by the Government in August, 1955.

The Council and Health Committee lost the valued services of Councillor M. Crawshaw, Chairman of the Health Committee, after 16 years as a member of the Council and 14 years as Chairman of the Health Committee.

In September, Mr. J. Blackley, Health Department Foreman, retired after 19 years loyal and efficient service with the Council.

May I thank Councillor G. Holt, J.P., Chairman of the Health Committee and all the Committee members for their encouragement and support, and the officers of the Council for their help and co-operation.

I am indebted to the Medical Officer of Health for his interest and advice, and the valuable services rendered by the Department Staff.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
H. KELLETT,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Water Act, 1945.

Water Supply.

The following table shows the number of houses and types of supply in the district :—

No. of Houses Connected to Public Mains during 1954		SUPPLIES TO HOUSES					
		Supply to all Houses at end of Year					
		From Public Mains				From Private Supplies	
		Direct to Houses		By means of Stand Pipes			
Existing	New	No. of Houses	Est. Pop.	No. of Houses	Est. Pop.	No. of Houses	Est. Pop.
24	26	4,739	13,760	Nil	Nil	373	980

(a) PUBLIC.—The public water supply is provided and maintained by the Irwell Valley Water Board. The sources of the water are upland surface reservoirs at Clowbridge, Ogden, Calf Hey, and Scout Moor. The whole supply is chlorinated and part is filtered through closed pressure filters. Additional filtration plant was brought into operation with the opening of a new filtration station at Loveclough, Crawshawbooth. There is liability to slight plumbo-solvency at Clowbridge and Ogden reservoirs. Lime treatment is carried out at most of the reservoirs, and during the year the Water Board took 181 samples in the district for plumbo-solvency. Quantity is insufficient in a few properties connected to low pressure mains, and on common service pipes.

Twenty-four samples were taken by the Department of the public supply of which one was doubtful; the Water Board report that the results of analysis of 181 bacteriological and 43 chemical samples have been satisfactory.

There has been very close liaison between the officials of the Health Department and the Engineer and Manager of the Board in regard to any doubtful water samples, and in all matters connected with public water supplies.

The Board are actively engaged in large filtration schemes, and the whole of the Board's supply is subject to very frequent sampling by the health authorities throughout its supply area.

(b) PRIVATE.—Many houses and isolated farms draw their water from private supplies. 50 bacteriological samples were taken from private supplies which were suspected, of these 22 were unsatisfactory, 6 doubtful, 22 satisfactory.

During the year 24 houses previously on private supplies were connected to the main. In all 591 yards of new 3 inch main was laid during the year, and 89 yards of 3 inch main to improve supplies to existing properties.

Sewage Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 15.

The sewage disposal works are situated at Summerseat. They embody detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, percolating filters and humus tanks. During the year new sprinklers were fitted to all percolating filters, and the provision of new pumps has been put in hand.

Rivers and Streams.

Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951.

The Mersey River Board is the controlling authority. There is close liaison with the District Inspector (Mr. R. L. Bolton, A.M.C.T., A.R.S.I.), Mersey River Board.

Closet Accommodation.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 47.

The following conversions were carried out during the year :—

38 Waste Water Closets converted to Fresh Water Closets.

1 Pail Closets converted to Fresh Water Closets.

The Council make a grant to a maximum of £10 towards the cost of conversion of waste water closets and pail closets into fresh water closets.

Pail Closet Accommodation.

Out of a total of 169 pail closets in use in various parts of the Urban District the Council provides a weekly emptying service for 126 premises. These premises fall into three groups.

- (a) Property not more than 100 feet from sewer and water supply 26
- (b) Property where sewer extensions required 13
- (c) Isolated property, sewers will not be available for a long period of years 87

ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1954.

Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	...	24
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	169
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	873
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	3,742

Public Cleansing.

Types of receptacles in use at the end of the year:—

Privvy Middens	...	...	...	...	...	24
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	169
Dry Ash Pits	...	...	...	...	...	23
Dustbins (approx.)	...	...	...	...	...	4,882

(a) Refuse Collection.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 72.

The collection of domestic and trade refuse and salvage, is carried out by direct labour. After a series of demonstrations with larger capacity refuse vehicles, both side and end loading, and with the use of compression, the Council approved in September 1953 the purchase of a 16 cu. yd. fore-and-aft tipper by Shelvoke and Drewry. This vehicle came into operation on the 1st March, 1954.

TRANSPORT

<i>Date</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Make</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
1945, Feb.	GNE518	Karrier, side loader	7 cu. yds.	
1949, Feb.	KTC448	S&D side loader	7 cu. yds.	
1950, Feb.	LTD361	S&D side loader	7 cu. yds.	
1954, March	STC781	S&D fore and aft tipper	16 cu. yds.	
1949, Feb.	KTC641	Jowett Van	—	

The normal establishment of Cleansing Staff consists of one foreman, three drivers, two tipmen and twelve ashbinmen. The labour problem has been a little easier this year. The use of casual labour is never satisfactory, and the collection service is kept going by a nucleus of permanent men who maintain an interest, in a not altogether agreeable occupation. The important part these men play in the communal hygiene of the district cannot be over emphasised.

The Cleansing Staff are provided with two sets of overalls annually and a set of water-proof clothing bi-annually.

A 44-hour week has been in operation since October 1948 ; this is spread over $5\frac{1}{2}$ days during November to February ; and 5 days during the remainder of the year. A special collection of trade refuse is made on Saturday mornings during the 5-day week period, by one vehicle.

During the year arrangements were made with the Council's Transport Department, to carry out repairs and supervise maintenance of all the Health Department's vehicles. The co-operation of the Transport Manager, Mr. L. T. Merrall, and his staff is acknowledged.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 76.

Tipping at the Blackburn Road tip, Edenfield, which had been in use for many years, ceased on the 29th March.

For a period from 30th March to the 25th May, tipping took place at the recreation ground, Peel Brow, by permission of the Parks Committee. A large depression in the ground was tipped up to the level of the surrounding ground.

Tipping commenced at the new 16-acre site in Bolton Road West, Ramsbottom, on the 26th May. An approach road was constructed by the Engineers and Surveyors' Department, and a culvert was laid in a portion of the land requiring drainage.

This new tip should provide tipping space for a long number of years. Two tip attendants are normally employed. The main problem is still the difficulty in finding adequate quantities of suitable covering material.

The Council agreed to provide facilities for public tipping on the new tip. Clean covering material—ashes and cinders to be accepted free of charge, and all other suitable materials at 5s. 0d. per 3-ton load, with smaller loads *pro rata*.

The contents of pail closets are collected weekly by a special night soil tank, and are discharged via a special chute to the sewer.

Particulars of Loads tipped—

	Loads	Estimated Tonnage
Household refuse	1,911	4,822
Privy Middens	41	82
Various (covering material, etc.) ...	89	198
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,041	5,102
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Loads not tipped, (Salvage) (Special collections)

					Loads	Estimated Tonnage
Waste Paper	...	...	...	...	120	20
Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	...	25	18
					<hr/> 145	<hr/> 38

SUMMARY

					Loads	Tons
Total amount disposed of	...	...	...	...	2,186	5,140
					<hr/>	<hr/>

During the year a number of loads of refuse were weighed and from these figures the estimated tonnage was calculated.

CLEANSING COSTS.

The net cost of refuse collection and disposal (excluding excreta removed) for financial year ending 31st Mar. 1955, was £9,710 0s. 2d. compared with £8,321 15s. 4d. for the previous year.

				£	s.	d.
Nett Cost per Ton (estimated weight)...	...	...	...	1	17	9
Nett Cost per 1,000 premises ...	...	...	...	1,855	17	9
Nett Cost per 1,000 population (14,160)	...	...	...	685	14	8
Nett Cost—equivalent rate in the £ ...	...	...	...	2	5·10	
Percentage to total rates in the £ ...	...	...	...		10·21%	

(c) Salvage

The collection of kitchen waste ceased on the 23rd March, 1954, as the result of the revocation of the wartime direction order, which became operative on the 1st March, 1954.

A slight increase in the collection of waste paper occurred, and the price rose slowly, the recovery in this market appears to be progressing. Salvage of paper and cardboard was continued from shops only.

It seems a strange economy that can permit the destruction of valuable raw material in the form of paper and cardboard.

The revenue from salvage, an important contribution to the rate fund, rose from £274 8s. 8d. in 1953, to £413 15s. 7d. in 1954, and the outlook for the year 1955, as far as income from sale of waste paper is concerned shows signs of distinct improvement.

(d) Provision of Dustbins.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 75.

Consideration has been given to the institution of a local authority bin replacement scheme, but it was not felt that the time was opportune to inaugurate this method of bin provision and replacement.

The owners of all property are required to provide replacements in all cases. By the financial year end 259 bins had been sold by the Council.

The provision of adequate storage facilities for domestic refuse is a contribution to public health, for it reduces the foodstuff available to flies and reduces their breeding potential. Accidents to the Council's employees are reduced when sound receptacles of standard design are used, and loaders work faster with standard bins.

(e) Salvage of Materials.

The following list shows weights of material recovered and the income from their sale :—

	T.	c.	q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Kitchen Waste ...	14	14	0	0	75	8	5
Condemned Food	7	15	0	14	68	5	2
Bones	19	19	2	0	111	8	6
Mixed Waste Paper	20	3	3	0	133	15	11
Scrap Metal ...	9	15	2	0	22	14	9
Textiles		3	2	16	2	2	10
	72	11	21	2	£413	15	7

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Number and Nature of Inspections	Total Visits
Housing—Housing Act	316
Housing—Public Health Act	103
Other Visits—Public Health Act	74
Temporary Dwellings	2
Vermin Infestations	22
Infectious Diseases	33
Water Supply	52
Water Samples	74
Sanitary Accommodation	78
Conversion of Obsolete Closets to F.W.C.'s	35
Drainage	216
Refuse Accommodation	105
Public Cleansing	84
Public Conveniences	11
Mortuary	—
Dairies	4
Bakehouses	2
Butchers Shops	15
Fried Fish Shops	2
Ice Cream Premises	36
Food Preparing Premises	22
Hawkers	—
Restaurants	—
Slaughterhouses	48
Ice Cream Samples	19
Milk Samples (Bacteriological)	153
Other Samples (with County)	—
Meat Inspection	736
Food Inspection	89
Factories Act	24
Outworkers	6
Shops	1
Schools	8
Offensive Trades	—
Smoke Abatement	18
Rodent Control	60
Keeping of Animals	2
Miscellaneous Visits	40
Overcrowding	2
General Food Premises	10
Food Poisoning	2
T.B. Act	6
	2,609

Notices Served.

Informal Notices	....	....	....	....	....	....	209
Statutory Notices	....	....	....	....	....	....	18

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES FOUND

(a) Housing.

HOUSES WITH :—							Found or de- fective	Reme- died
Defective Roofs	....	....	....	....	....	....	28	1
Defective Downspouts, and Eavesgutters					....	....	19	—
Defective Pointing and Rendering				....	....	....	6	—
Other External Defects	....		....	....	....	....	3	—
Structural Defects	....		....	....	....	....	11	—
Penetrating Dampness		....	....	....	....	....	24	2
Rising Dampness	....		....	....	....	....	19	2
Defective Plaster	....		....	....	....	....	42	3
Extensive Internal Defects			....	....	....	....	6	1
Minor Internal Defects	....		....	....	....	....	20	—
Insanitary Sinks	... ..		...	..	...	...	2	—
Unsatisfactory Washing facilities	....		....	....	....	....	1	—
„ Cooking	... ..		...	..	...	...	4	1
Lighting and Ventilation	....		....	....	....	....	4	1
Other Sanitary Defects	....		....	....	....	....	11	1
Defective Yard Paving	....		....	....	....	....	—	—
Unsatisfactory Food Storage		....	....	....	....	....	—	—
Unsatisfactory Water Supply		....	....	....	....	....	9	—
No. of houses involved :—								
Unfit	....		....	....	....	....	4	1
Partially unfit	....		....	....	....	....	9	3

(b) Sanitary and Refuse Accommodation.

[illegible]

						Found or de- fective	Reme- died
W.W.C's converted	....	....	....	....	....	38	38
Choked W.W.C's	....	....	....	....	....	41	41
W.C's or Structures	....	....	....	....	....	19	5
Extra W.C's installed	....	....	....	....	....	—	7

(c) Drainage.

Choked Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	38	33
Defective Drainage	....	....	....	....	....	23	23
New Drainage inspected and passed				....	....	—	46
Colour Tests	....	....	....	....	....	—	10
Smoke Tests	....	....	....	....	....	—	22
Defective Septic Tanks	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Defective Downspouts	....	....	....	....	....	3	3
Old Drains Tested	....	....	....	....	....	—	4

(d) General.

Accumulations	....	....	....	....	....	1	1
Verminous Premises, excluding Bed Bugs				....	....	5	5
Other Nuisances	18	14
Dangerous Structures	1	—

(e) Slaughterhouses.

Lighting	1	1
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(f) Food Premises, Hawkers.

Risk of Contamination	1	1
Cleanliness	1	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health :—

Premises	Number on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the L.A.	10	—	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A. ...	113	23	2	—
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers premises) ...	2	1	1	—
Total	125	24	3	—

(2) Cases in which Defects were found :

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Reasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	1	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient (Sec. 7)	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	1	—	—	—

OUTWORKERS.

There are five outworkers registered with the local authority ; two employed in the weaving of textile fabrics ; two making curtain and furniture hangings ; one making wearing apparel. The premises used for this work were found to be satisfactory.

Smoke Abatement.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 101 - 106.

There are thirty-nine factory chimneys in the district. No observations were taken during the year.

Two lead peroxide instruments, which record the amount of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere, were installed on the 25th May 1954 by the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

The results are expressed as milligrammes of sulphur trioxide per day, per 100 square centimetres of lead peroxide, exposed in a special instrument, to the weather.

In the first month, June, the records were as follows :—

Ramsbottom Cemetery—0.86

Ramsbottom Cricket Club—0.81

As a comparison, the recording for Trafford Park, Manchester, in the same month was 11.10.

Offensive fumes from two factories were the subject of intensive investigation, in co-operation with Mr. H. Brigg, H.M. Inspector of Alkali Works. Both firms are resolved to solve this problem at considerable expense in the near future.

Verminous Premises.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83 - 85.

No cases of bug infestation were reported or discovered during the year. 9 cases of flea infestation were treated.

When treatment is carried out by the Department, various types of residual spray, containing varying percentages of D.D.T. and Gammexane are used. The sprays have generally been very efficient.

Offensive Trades.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 107, 108.

There are six offensive trades in the district: 1 tripe boiler, 1 soap boiler, 3 gut scrapers, 1 tallow refiner.

Schools.

The standard of accommodation of the school meals service is generally good, adequate washing facilities, hot water, hot cupboards and hot plates, storage cupboards, etc., being provided.

The sanitary accommodation at two schools in rural parts of the district leave much to be desired. Turn County School is on pail closets and Buckhurst School is on privy middens. No sewers are available in either district.

Mains water is delivered daily in containers by the Schools Meals Service to Buckhurst School, there being no suitable supply available locally.

The following is an analysis of the sanitary condition of the schools in the area :—

Total No. of schools in district	....	....	....	12
No. of schools with unsatisfactory yard surfaces	....			—

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

No. of schools with :

(i) Fresh Water Closets only	....	....	....	10
(ii) Waste Water Closets only	....	....	....	0
(iii) Trough Closets only	....	....	....	0
(iv) Pail Closets only	....	....	....	1
(v) Privy Closets only	....	....	....	1

REFUSE ACCOMMODATION

No. of schools with :

(i) Dustbins	....	....	....	....	....	11
(ii) Dry Ashpits	....	....	....	....	....	1

WATER SUPPLY

No. of schools supplied from :

(i) Public Mains	....	....	....	....	....	12
(ii) Private Supplies	....	....	....	....	....	—

DRAINAGE

No. of schools with drainage to :

(i) Public Sewers	....	....	....	....	....	10
(ii) Inadequate Disposal Systems	....	....	....	....	....	2

WASHING FACILITIES

Some room for improvement in the older schools.

FOOD HANDLING FACILITIES

In the majority of cases these are satisfactory, although there is room for improvement in a few schools.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Moveable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 268 - 269.

There are no licensed camping sites in the area. One individual licence in connection with a caravan was renewed during the year, and one new additional licence to station a caravan was granted. These are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Rodent Control.

Pests Act, 1949.

Considerable work was done under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. One part-time trained rodent operative is employed in the Department, and one ashbinman is a trained operative, acting as a reserve.

(a) SURFACE INFESTATIONS.—During the year the following surface infestations were treated :—

SURFACE INFESTATIONS — RATS AND MICE

	Local Authority	Private Dwellings	Agricultural Premises	Business & Miscellaneous Premises	Total
Primary Inspections ...	2	53	3	37	95
Rat Infestations—"Reservoir"	—	—	—	—	6
"Major"	1	3	1	1	26
"Minor"	1	16	—	9	21
Mice Infestations ...	1	4	—	16	53
Total Treatments ...	3	23	1	26	815
No. of points baited ...	31	263	102	419	273
No. of points poisoned or used	12	71	14	176	38
Bodies Found—Rats	—	9	9	20	—
Mice	—	—	—	—	—

The Council's refuse tips received one treatment and one test baits during the year. The poison Warfarin was used extensively during the year with very satisfactory results. Visits to baiting points were reduced and a more efficient kill obtained. In certain cases permanent baiting points were set up to deal with subsequent invasions of rats.

(b) SEWER TREATMENTS.

- (1) MAINTENANCE TREATMENT.—Two took place during the year, one in February, the other in August. In the first case 54 manholes were poisoned with 10% arsenic and bread mash, 3 good takes and 7 partial takes occurred. Two bodies were found in one manhole. In the second case 53 manholes were poisoned with 2½% zinc phosphide and sausage rusk, 4 good takes and 11 partial takes occurred.
- (2) TEST-BAIT.—A 20% test baiting of the sewers, with sausage rusk, was carried out in August between the above two treatments; 115 manholes were treated. Two complete takes occurred.

(c) RIVER IRWELL TREATMENT.

A treatment of portions of the River Irwell took place between 10th May and 31st May. Bait was laid at 1,862 points on alternate days; 446 poison baits were laid (2½% zinc phosphide and sausage rusk). There were 78 "good" takes, and 155 "partial" takes. Eight bodies were recovered, and it is estimated from the quantity of bait taken that 729 rats were killed.

The work was carried out by the Rodent Operator with an assistant. The weather was fairly good during the treatment except for a heavy rainfall during the last weekend. Infestation appears to persist in certain areas and the operator frequently refers in his report, to rat droppings and feet marks of rats on the exposed mud of the river.

The river continues to be polluted; waste food, dead poultry, cats and dogs were found in certain parts. An annual treatment, as in the case of sewers, appears to be warranted.

The work of treatment was inspected by Mr. S. R. Surtees, Field and Instructional Officer (H.Q.) Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The treatment was co-ordinated with Mr. H. Turner, Director of Cleansing, County Borough of Bury, on the boundary of the two districts, rats do not respect local authority boundaries.

Councillor G. Holt, J.P., Councillor J. Hogan, Councillor H. A. Fish, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector were the Local Authority's representatives on the Rodent Control Workable Area Committee No. 15 for the year 1954, this met twice during the year at Bacup and Ramsbottom, at the latter meeting, Workable Area Committees No. 10, 11, and 15 had a joint meeting and amalgamated to form the North East Lancashire Advisory Committee.

Mortuary.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 198.

The mortuary was used during the year for the reception of 6 bodies, death resulting from the following causes :—

5 deaths from natural causes.

1 suicide.

Public Conveniences.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 87.

Six Public Conveniences are provided in different parts of the town, two catering for males only.

Temporary conveniences were erected at Holcombe Hill on Good Friday to cater for the large influx of visitors.

During the year considerable damage continued to be done to conveniences.

Fittings were damaged and coin boxes attacked. The result of this damage frequently causes inconvenience to the public.

Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

This Act and regulations made thereunder came into force on 1st November, 1951.

One Certificate of Registration is in force for a factory using Kapok, down and feathers as a filling material.

No samples of the above materials were taken during the year.

Marine Store Dealers.

Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907. Section 86.

The names and addresses of three dealers in old metal appear in the register kept by the Department in pursuance of Section 86 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Chief Sanitary Requirements of the District.

Further reduction in number of unsatisfactory private water supplies.

Sewering of the Turn district, and reduction of number of pail closets.

Abolition of waste water closets.

Clearance of Unfit Houses.

Section E

HOUSING

HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a)	Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	419
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	419
(2) (a)	Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	24
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	24
(3)	Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	29
(4)	Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	45

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal notices :—

(a)	Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	29
(b)	Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	1
(c)	Number of houses which were demolished	—

3.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13, Housing Act, 1936 :—

Undertakings accepted under Sec. 11 (3)	4
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4.—Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936 :—

Number of separate tenements in respect of which closing orders were made	—
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5.—Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding. No accurate figures are available. Complete survey of district necessary in order to assess degree of overcrowding.

6.—Clearance Area Procedure. An Interim Housing Report was issued during the year, this is referred to later in the text.

NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) By the Local Authority (Permanent—Houses) ...	9
(b) By the Local Authority (Temporary) ...	Nil
(c) By Other Bodies or Persons (Traditional Houses) ...	4
(d) By Other Bodies or Persons (Permanent—Flats) ...	Nil

Housing Conditions.

Housing Acts, 1936 and 1949.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

The majority of the houses in the district are stone built, consisting of two rooms up and two rooms down ; conveniences such as hot water systems, baths, etc., are absent in many cases. Approximately 58% of the houses have baths, and 83% have water closets.

From a repair point of view houses which are the subject of unconfirmed orders present the main problem. The majority of stone houses suffer from some degree of dampness.

Some idea of the extent of the housing shortage can be judged from the following figures which show the number of families applying for Council Houses.

<i>Total No. of Separate Family Units applying for</i>			
		<i>2-Bedroomed</i>	<i>3-Bedroomed</i>
		<i>Houses :</i>	<i>Houses :</i>
		<i>Bungalows</i>	
		<i>and Flats :</i>	
Without separate houses ...	13	29	8
With separate houses ...	95	157	95
Estimated future requirements * ...	10	20	8

The present position as to real housing needs and to overcrowding cannot be accurately assessed without a comprehensive survey.

* Excludes houses required to replace unfit houses which will be the subject of demolition orders.

Unfit Housing.

(a) *Housing Act, 1936. Section 25.*

During 1952 a survey was made of a number of unfit houses previously included in housing reports issued in 1933 and 1937.

In all, 278 houses are involved of which probably 231 will be in clearance areas, 39 back-to-back houses will be required to be made into through houses, 4 houses will be closed, and 4 individual houses will be the subject of demolition orders.

At the end of 1954 a further survey was commenced of all unfit houses in the area, in preparation for submission of proposals to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (as required by Section 1 Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954), by 30th August, 1955.

During the year a special report was prepared and eventually submitted to the Council, on one area containing 72 houses and 2 shops, action being delayed pending further reports on financial implications.

The Council gave instructions for a number of properties to be inspected with a view to official representations being made by the Medical Officer of Health. Twenty-four houses were inspected and reports prepared for official representations. The Ministry of Housing held a public enquiry into two areas, and inspected three other areas. All the orders were eventually confirmed.

HOUSING PROGRAMME

<i>Area No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>Year Re- sented</i>	<i>Year of Inquiry</i>	<i>Year Re- housed</i>	<i>Year De- molished</i>
1	East Street ...	2	1954	1954	—	—
2	Whalley Rd. (No. 4)	10	1954	1954	1955	1955
3	Kenyon Street ...	2	1954	1954	—	—
4	Brook Street ...	4	1954	1954	1955	—
5	Back Bridge Street Flag Street	6	1954	1954	—	—

During the year a number of undertakings were accepted under Section 11 (3) Housing Act, 1936, in respect of 6 houses, and 1 house was the subject of a demolition order, the house being subsequently demolished. The tenants of these houses were rehoused by the Council or themselves found alternative accommodation. There is close co-operation with the Housing Department in dealing with applicants for Council houses from unfit dwellings, and the Health and Housing Committees have a close liaison in these matters.

(b) *Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954*

Only one application for a "Certificate of Disrepair" was made under Section 26 of the above Act. This was approved by the Health Committee, but was not issued due to the death of the sole tenant of the house.

Section F

INSPECTION AND
SUPERVISION
OF FOOD

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.*Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.*

No. of registered distributors operating from :—

(a) Own dairies in the district	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Dairy farms in the district	...	...	...	...	...	45
(c) Premises outside the district	...	...	...	...	...	5

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

No. of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by local authority during 1954 in respect of :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Distribution	6
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The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

No. of licences issued in respect of heat-treated milk.

Retail distributors :—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

All unsatisfactory samples of milk produced in this district are reported to the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who is now responsible for production of milk.

Notification of 2 tuberculous samples out of 126 samples of milk, were forwarded to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Ministry carried out 1 veterinary inspection of cattle in this district. No animals were seized and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

There was a fall in the percentage of tuberculous milk samples, from 4.31% in 1953 to 1.66% in 1954. This result is still unsatisfactory. These all occurred in raw milks, and emphasises the need for the pasteurisation of all milk.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.*Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 68.*

The following table shows the results of samples of milk submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The results of the methylene blue tests, which are an indication of the keeping quality of the milk, are fairly good, only 26 samples failing out of a total of 145 samples of raw milk. Twelve samples of pasteurised milk passed the methylene blue test, and they all passed the phosphatase heat treatment test. Eight samples of sterilised milk were found to comply with the regulations, having passed the turbidity test.

Type of Milk	Number of Samples Submitted	Turbidity Test		Methylene Blue		Tubercle Bacilli		Phosphatase Test		Total No. of Tests
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	
Undesignated	99	—	—	82	17	78	2	—	—	179
Pasteurised	11	—	—	11	—	1	—	11	—	23
Tuberculin Tested	46	—	—	37	9	46	—	—	—	92
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Sterilised	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Totals	165	8	—	131	26	125	2	12	—	304

(b) Ice Cream.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 14.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The following is a list of the various types of ice cream premises registered within the district.

Registered Wholesale and Retail Manufacturers	...	2
Registered Retail Manufacturers	... ..	1
Registered Retail Vendor's Premises (in use)	... ..	59

In January, 1949, the Council adopted five Codes of Practice approved by the Lancs. County Council, covering the manufacture, transportation, storing and sale of ice cream. All persons dealing with this product are informed of the appropriate Code, and this is now the standard required in all premises.

The following table shows the results of samples of ice-cream taken in the district during the year, which were examined and classified according to their reaction to the methylene blue reduction test.

Type of Ice Cream	Provisional Grade				Methylene Blue Test		Total Tests
	1	2	3	4	Passed	Failed	
Local Manufacture ...	10	3	2	—	10	5	15
Not Local Manufacture	14	—	—	—	3	1	4
Totals	13	4	2	—	13	6	19

When considering these results it should be remembered that the methylene blue test and the grading as applied to ice-cream is provisional, and is only an index of its bacterial cleanliness and not its safety for human consumption. The results on this basis were very good, only six samples falling below grade I.

The Ministry of Health suggest that over a period of six months, 50% of a vendors samples should fall into Grade I, 80% into Grade I or II, not more than 20% into Grade III, and none into Grade IV.

Ramsbottom Urban District Council

WEIGHTS OF CARCASSES AND ORGANS FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN FOOD

Year	ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS			TUBERCULOSIS ONLY		
	Whole carcasses and organs Pounds	Part carcasses and organs Pounds	Total Pounds	Whole carcasses and organs Pounds	Part carcasses and organs Pounds	Total Pounds
1939	179	108	287	570	1,184	1,754
1940	1,062	992	2,054	1,761	8,052	9,813
1941	134	696	830	1,430	7,697	9,127
1942	432	604	1,036	916	4,812	5,728
1943	358	520	878	1,307	5,366	6,673
1944	Nil	409	409	2,562	5,535	8,097
1945	124	890	1,014	2,688	6,077	8,765
1946	Nil	1,192	1,192	1,215	7,488	8,703
1947	508	949	1,457	1,898	4,814	6,712
1948	175	996	1,171	4,296	4,563	8,859
1949	702	1,307	2,009	5,121	10,500	15,621
1950	1,790	1,654	3,444	2,961	8,155	11,116
1951	1,302	1,715	3,017	2,951	7,277	10,228
1952	10,544	2,899	13,443	3,129	6,573	9,702
1953	11,059	4,734	15,793	3,658	5,185	8,843
1954	4,092	9,236	13,928	5,571	11,040	17,611
Totals	33,061	28,901	61,962	43,034	104,318	147,352

Ramsbottom Urban District Council
CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED—1943-1954

55

Year	Number Killed	Number Inspected	ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS			TUBERCULOSIS ONLY		
			Whole carcasses Condemned	Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	% of No. inspected affected by disease other than tuberculosis	Whole carcasses condemned	Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	% of No. inspected affected with tuberculosis
1943	3,935	3,935	2	*	*	7	*	*
1944	3,549	3,549	Nil	*	*	12	*	*
1945	3,730	3,730	1	*	*	15	*	*
1946	4,200	4,200	Nil	*	*	7	*	*
1947	2,266	2,266	2	*	*	10	*	*
1948	2,979	2,979	1	154	5.2	23	159	6.11
1949	6,157	6,157	4	283	4.66	33	460	8.01
1950	7,422	7,422	11	284	3.97	17	422	5.91
1951	6,714	6,714	8	312	4.77	10	313	4.81
1952	7,897	7,897	30	344	4.73	20	314	4.22
1953	8,082	8,082	29	579	7.52	23	313	4.15
1954	14,392	14,392	20	1,116	7.89	20	535	3.89

* No record kept of actual numbers ; record of weights only.

(c) Meat and Food Inspection.*Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Section 10.**Memo 3. Meat.***(i) MEAT.**

During the year all the animals slaughtered at the Bacon Factory and at four other Slaughter Houses have been examined. Particulars of carcasses inspected and amounts condemned are shown below.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cows	Bulls	Heifers	Bullocks	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	488	28	374	299	84	5520	7599
Number inspected	488	28	374	299	84	5520	7599
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS							
Whole Carcasses Condemned	4	—	1	—	1	—	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned... ..	109	3	63	61	—	46	834
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	23·15	10·71	17·11	20·40	1·19	·83	11·10
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY							
Whole Carcasses Condemned... ..	4	—	2	2	4	—	14
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned... ..	204	7	35	15	—	—	274
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	42·62	·25	9·87	5·68	4·52	—	3·79

Weight of Carcasses and Organs found to be unfit for human consumption:

	Whole Carcasses and organs pounds	Part Carcasses and organs pounds	Total pounds
All diseases except Tuberculosis	4,692	9,236	13,928
Tuberculosis only	6,571	11,040	17,611
Totals	11,263	20,276	31,539

The above figures include pigs slaughtered for private consumption of which parts were surrendered.

A store for condemned meat is provided at the Depot. This is a brick structure, adequately ventilated, flyproof, and provided with cement rendered walls, water laid on, drainage facilities, hanging rails, etc.

MEMORANDUM 3 MEAT (methods and criterion of meat inspection) issued by the Ministry of Food adopted by the Council on the 18th December, 1952, is closely followed.

(ii) SLAUGHTER HOUSES

The decontrol of meat came into operation on the 5th July 1954. The Council finally issued licences for four private slaughter houses, and one slaughter house attached to a bacon factory. Modifications and improvements were carried out at all these premises prior to licences being granted.

The above decision was arrived at after very serious consideration of the problem, and after joint meetings between the Council and the local Butchers' Association.

Slaughtering has been carried out continually since decontrol on most days of the week. From July to December a total of 14,392 animals were slaughtered, and 14 tons 1 cwt. 2 quarters 11 lb. of meat were condemned.

Considerable overtime has been worked by the Council's meat inspectors, and during the above period 97 hours on weekdays and 150 hours on Sundays have been worked, a total of 247 hours. In practice an inspector has to be on duty every Sunday. Considerable quantities of meat produced in the Ramsbottom area are being exported to neighbouring areas.

All condemned meat is removed at the time of inspection, and is dyed with "naphthalene green." It is finally disposed of to a fertiliser and animal feeding stuffs manufacturer.

(iii) SLAUGHTERMEN'S LICENCES

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

Slaughter of Animals (Pigs) Act, 1954.

The latter two Acts came into force during the year. By the 31st December 1954, 20 persons had been licensed as slaughtermen.

(iv) OTHER FOODS.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Sections 10 - 12.

In the course of visits to shops, food-stores, food preparation premises the following food stuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption.

2 Tins of Ham ...	...	...	21½ lb.
14 Tins of Meat ...	...	...	68 lb.
2 Tins of Fruit ...	...	...	3¾ lb.
9 Tins of Fish ...	...	...	9 lb.
9 Tins of Vegetables ...	...	...	5½ lb.
			<hr/>
			107¾ lb.
			<hr/>

(v) FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Sections 68 - 70.

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to the sampling of food for quality are carried out by the Lancashire County Council, Public Health Department, through its County Sanitary Officer, Mr. J. Eckersley.

Dr. S. C. Gawne, the County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly supplied the following information.

A total of 84 samples were obtained in the Ramsbottom District, a similar number to 1953.

Fifty-one of the samples were milk, including one Channel Island milk, and 33 other foods, comprising :—

2 Fish, Canned	3 Glycerin
2 Cornflour	2 Beef Sausage
1 Coffee Extract Mixture, dry	1 Orange
1 Tapioca	1 Arrowroot
2 Epsom Salts	1 Sugar
2 Sago	1 Icing Sugar
1 Shrimps, Canned	1 Demerara Sugar
1 Baby Food, (Soup Powder)	1 Mustard Compound
3 Curry Powder	2 Jam
1 Whisky	2 Lemon Cheese
	2 Cheese

In addition, three "Appeal-to-Cow" samples were taken during the year.

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
1 Sago	Consisted of tapioca	Vendor notified
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 7.1% "solids not fat." The freezing point indicated the presence of 6.1% of extraneous water.	Prosecution. Vendor fined £5 and 7 guineas costs.
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 13.3% fat.	Vendor notified, further samples obtained.

(d) Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951.

Section 14 of the above Act came into force in the district on the 1st April, 1952. This Section concerns the registration of hawkers of food and their premises.

No. of hawkers of fish, vegetables, etc., on register 3

(e) Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Under an order made by the Ministry of Health, Section 14 of the above Act came into force in the district on the 28th March, 1952. This section concerns the registration of premises used in connection

with the manufacture or sale of ice cream, preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.

The following types of premises appear on the Department's register:—

Premises for sale of cooked meats, etc.	...	...	...	22
Premises for sale of fried fish	...	...	...	14
Premises for sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	59

(f) Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951.

Section 13 of the above Act came into force on the 1st April, 1952.

This section requires notification to the local authority of the slaughter of animals, slaughtered otherwise than for human consumption. No notices were received during the year.

(g) Public Health (Meat) (Amendment) Regulations, 1952.

These regulations came into force on the 31st August, 1952, and extended the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924/48 to cover an additional class of animal. The slaughter of horse, mares, geldings, etc., is now controlled by these regulations.

No animals in this class were slaughtered in the district during the year.

(h) Clean Food.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Sections 13 and 15.

- (i) The Council has adopted a Code of Practice for shops, stalls and vehicles drawn up by a Committee consisting of the Medical Officers and Sanitary Inspectors of the seven Local Authorities in No. 12 Health Division, and the County Borough of Bury. This Code sets out in detail what is considered to be "good practice" for the various food trades in the day to day running of their businesses.
- (ii) The Council has approved a display card on clean food for distribution to all food shops. The card seeks the co-operation of the customer and trader in keeping both premises and food in a clean condition.
- (iii) A display card, in the form recommended by the Ministry of Food, requesting that dogs should not be brought into premises in which food is sold was distributed to all food shops in the district.
- (iv) The Council has adopted Bye-laws made under Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food, and sale of food in the open air, on 22nd May, 1950.

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